

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3908
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NATO 04295

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJECT: 1978 NATO SUMMIT

1. IN A MAY 27 CALL ON THE AMBASSADOR, UK PERMREP
KILLICK ON A PERSONAL BASIS RAISED THE ISSUE OF FRENCH
PARTICIPATION IN THE 1978 WASHINGTON NATO SUMMIT. HE
SUGGESTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTERS MEET BEFORE THE
SUMMIT TO REVIEW THE VARIOUS DEFENSE INITIATIVES, THEREBY
AVOIDING A MAJOR DISCUSSION OF THEM AT THE SUMMIT AND,
THUS, MAKING IT MORE ATTRACTIVE FOR THE FRENCH TO ATTEND.
KILLICK NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT FRENCH
PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS MIGHT WELL BE TAKING
PLACE AROUND THE TIME OF THE 1978 NATO SUMMIT AND THAT,
IN EVENT OF VICTORY OF THE LEFT, OR EVEN BEFORE ELECTIONS,
GISCARD'S POLITICAL SITUATION COULD BE DELICATE.

2. AS ANOTHER SOLUTION, KILLICK SUGGESTED THE
POSSIBILITY OF A TWO-PART SUMMIT MEETING IN WHICH ONE
PART WOULD DEAL WITH DEFENSE ISSUES. THE AMBASSADOR
THOUGHT IT BETTER TO WORK FOR ONLY ONE MEETING, SINCE
THE PRESS WOULD LIKELY PLAY UP THE ABSENCE OF FRANCE AND
GREECE FROM A DEFENSE SUMMIT, WHICH ALSO WOULD TEND TO
EMPHASIZE FRENCH AND GREEK SEPARATION FROM NATO'S
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DEFENSE INITIATIVES.

3. COMMENT: WE SHARE KILLICK'S CONCERN ABOUT
PLANNING AHEAD, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO GIVE FRANCE
EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL OR
PRIME MINISTER LEVEL. AT THE SAME TIME, WE ARE
CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO GIVE PROMINENCE AT THE 1978

SUMMIT TO THE RESULTS OF THE US INITIATIVES, AND
CONSIDERATION THUS WILL NEED TO BE GIVEN TO HOW THE
HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MOST EFFECTIVELY CAN
ADDRESS THE INITIATIVES. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE
COUNCIL SHOULD BE CONSULTED AS SOON AS FEASIBLE
CONCERNING THE PROPOSED DATES FOR THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT,
SO THAT CALENDARS FOR 1978 CAN BE FIRMED UP. BASED
UPON THE HEAVY WORK SCHEDULE CONFRONTING NATO IN
CONNECTION WITH THE US INITIATIVES, DATES IN LATE MAY
OR JUNE, RATHER THAN EARLIER, WOULD PROVIDE MORE TIME TO
COMPLETE MATTERS FOR SUMMIT REVIEW. END COMMENT.BENNETT

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